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DRAFT REPORT

Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Rapporteur: Mr. Anatoliy T. OLIYNYK (Ukraine)

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Programme 12. Crime prevention and criminal justice

1. At its 23rd and 24th meetings, on 18 June 1996, the Committee considered programme 12, Crime prevention and criminal justice, of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations supported the general direction of the programme.

3. Several delegations requested information as to the efforts and nature of the coordination of activities with other United Nations organs and/or agencies, principally the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). Some delegations emphasized that coordination needed to be improved, in particular with UNDCP, for example on money laundering.

4. Several delegations stressed that the treatment of victims and the treatment of offenders should not be put on an equal footing. Other delegations were concerned with the lack of mandates and the lack of an agreed definition of the concept of "good governance" and requested its deletion from the text. Another delegation stressed the importance of the study of the multisectoral root of crime.

5. Some delegations were concerned that countries with economies in transition were not properly equipped to deal with the new forms of crime, in particular transnational crime, and stressed the need for assistance to those countries.

6. Several delegations expressed doubt that a common concept of organized transnational crime could be developed. Some delegations expressed concern that the question of terrorism had not been adequately addressed and indicated that this should be remedied. One delegation stressed the need for the question of the regulation of firearms to be addressed in the plan.

7. Some delegations did not think the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division made effective use of the resources it had. They noted that efficiency should be improved before additional resources were contemplated.

Conclusions and recommendations

8. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of programme 12 of the proposed medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001, with the following modifications:

(a) Paragraph 12.1: In the last sentence, replace the word "transfer" with the word "disseminate";

(b) Paragraph 12.3 (a): In the first sentence, delete the words "good governance and";

(c) Paragraph 12.3 (b):

(i) In the first sentence, replace the words "To strengthen the capacity of Governments to reform" with the words "To support the strengthening of the capacity of Governments, at their request, to improve";

(ii) Insert the following sentence after the first sentence: "Due attention will be given to firearms regulation measures in accordance with current national legislation and appropriate United Nations legislative mandates";

(d) Paragraph 12.3 (c):

(i) In the first sentence, after the word "terrorism" add the words "in all its forms and manifestations";

(ii) In the first sentence, replace the words "and environmental offences" with the words "environmental offences and illicit traffic in children [and their organs]";

(iii) At the end of the last sentence, add the words "taking into account the growing dangers of links between organized transnational crime, terrorist crimes and drug trafficking".